

What is claimed:

- 1. A navigation system, comprising:
 - a route calculation module for calculating a route to a predetermined destination;
- a route overview module for creating a route overview list as a function of the route;

and

- an acoustic message module for generating at least one acoustic route overview
- message based on the route overview list associated with the route.
- 10 2. The navigation system of claim 1 where the acoustic route overview message is
 - output on at least one loudspeaker.
 - 3. The navigation system of claim 1 where the acoustic route overview message is
 - output in response to a request for a route overview entered by a user.

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- 4. The navigation system of claim 1 where the route overview list includes at least one
- item selected from a group of items including a street name on the route, a name of a place on
- the route, a via on the route, a city on the route, an alternative street name on the route, a
- business location on the route, and a landmark on the route.

- 5. The navigation system of claim 1 where the acoustic route overview message is
- limited to a predetermined amount of time.
- 6. The navigation system of claim 5 where the route overview list is shortened based on

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list.

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at least one predetermined weighting factor to fit within the predetermined amount of time.

- 7. The navigation system of claim 6 where the predetermined weighting factor is a function of a popularity ranking associated with each item contained in the route overview list.
- 8. The navigation system of claim 6 where the predetermined weighting factor is based on a length of a road segment to be traveled on the route.
- 9. The navigation system of claim 1 where the acoustic route overview message includes an anticipated time of arrival.
 - 10. The navigation system of claim 1 where the acoustic message module retrieves at least one audio file from an acoustic message database to generate the acoustic route overview message.
 - 11. A method of generating acoustic route information in a navigation system, comprising the steps of:

calculating a route to a predetermined destination; creating a route overview list based on the route to the predetermined destination; and generating an acoustic route overview message as a function of the route overview

- 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of audibly reproducing the acoustic route overview message on at least one loudspeaker.
- 13. The method of claim 11 where the acoustic route overview message is audibly reproduced in response to a request from a user.

- 14. The method of claim 11 where the route overview list is determined by a route overview module.
- 15. The method of claim 11 where the route overview list includes at least one item selected from a group of items including a street name on the route, a name of a place on the route, a via on the route, a city on the route, an alternative street name on the route, a business location on the route, and a landmark on the route.
- 16. The method of claim 11 where the acoustic route overview message is limited to a predetermined amount of time.
 - 17. The method of claim 16 where the route overview list is shortened based on at least one predetermined weighting factor to fit within the predetermined amount of time.
- 18. The method of claim 17 where the predetermined weighting factor is a function of a popularity ranking associated with each item contained in the route overview list.
 - 19. The method of claim 17 where the predetermined weighting factor is based on a length of a road segment to be traveled on the route.
 - 20. The method of claim 11 where the acoustic route overview message includes an anticipated time of arrival.
 - 21. The method of claim 11 where the acoustic route overview message is generated by an acoustic message module.
 - 22. The method of claim 21 where the acoustic message module retrieves at least one audio file from an acoustic message database to generate the acoustic route overview message.

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- A navigation system, comprising: route calculation means for calculating a route to a predetermined destination; route overview means for creating a route overview list as a function of the route; and audio signal generation means for generating an acoustic route overview message based on the route overview list.
- The navigation system of claim 23 where the route overview means comprises a route 24. overview module.
- The navigation system of claim 23 where the acoustic route overview message is 10 25. audibly reproduced on at least one loudspeaker.
 - The navigation system of claim 23 where the acoustic route overview message is 26. audibly reproduced in response to a request from a user.
 - 27. The navigation system of claim 23 where the route overview list includes at least one item selected from a group of items including a street name on the route, a name of a place on the route, a via on the route, a city on the route, an alternative street name on the route, a business location on the route, and a landmark on the route.
 - 28. The navigation system of claim 23 where the acoustic route overview message is limited to a predetermined amount of time.
 - The navigation system of claim 28 where the route overview list is shortened based on 29. at least one predetermined weighting factor to fit within the predetermined amount of time.
 - The navigation system of claim 29 where the predetermined weighting factor is a 30. function of a popularity ranking associated with each item contained in the route overview list.

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- 31. The navigation system of claim 29 where the predetermined weighting factor is based on a length of a road segment to be traveled on the route.
- 32. The navigation system of claim 23 where the acoustic route overview message includes an anticipated time of arrival.
- 33. The navigation system of claim 23 where the acoustic route overview message is generated by an acoustic message module.
- 10 34. The navigation system of claim 33 where the acoustic message module retrieves at least one audio file from an acoustic message database to generate the acoustic route overview message.
 - 35. A navigation system, comprising:
 - a navigation control unit connected with a navigation server;
 - a route calculation module located on the navigation server for calculating a route to a predetermined destination;
 - a route overview module located on the navigation server for creating a route overview list based on the route; and
 - an acoustic message module located on the navigation server for generating an acoustic route overview message as a function of the route overview list.
 - 36. The navigation system of claim 35 where the navigation control unit is connected with the navigation server by a wireless access device.
 - 37. The navigation system of claim 36 where the navigation server transmits the acoustic route overview message to the navigation control unit using the wireless access device.
 - 38. The navigation system of claim 35 where the route overview list includes at least one item selected from a group of items including a street name on the route, a name of a place on the route, a via on the route, a city on the route, an alternative street name on the route, a

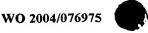
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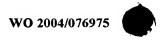
business location on the route, and a landmark on the route.

- 39. The navigation system of claim 35 where the acoustic route overview message is limited to a predetermined amount of time.
- 40. The navigation system of claim 35 where the acoustic route overview message includes an anticipated time of arrival.
- 41. The navigation system of claim 35 where the acoustic message module retrieves at least one audio file from an acoustic message database to generate the acoustic route overview message.
- 42. A method of generating acoustic route information, comprising the steps of: calculating a route to a predetermined destination with a navigation server; creating a route overview list based on the calculated route to the predetermined destination with the navigation server;

generating an acoustic route overview message as a function of the route overview list; and

transmitting the acoustic route overview message to a navigation control unit.

- 43. The method of claim 42 where the acoustic route overview message is transmitted to the navigation control unit using a wireless access device.
- 44. The method of claim 42 further comprising the step of audibly reproducing the acoustic route overview message on at least one loudspeaker.
- 45. The method of claim 42 where the route overview list includes at least one item selected from a group of items including a street name on the route, a name of a place on the route, a via on the route, a city on the route, an alternative street name on the route, a business location on the route, and a landmark on the route.



- 46. The method of claim 42 where the acoustic route overview message is limited to a predetermined amount of time.
- 5 47. The method of claim 42 where the acoustic route overview message includes an anticipated time of arrival.
 - 48. The method of claim 42 where the acoustic route overview message is generated by an acoustic message module.
 - 49. The method of claim 48 where the acoustic message module retrieves at least one audio file from an acoustic message database to generate the acoustic route overview message.